



SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE

Southeast Idaho Table 1 shows the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly in April 2001 to 4.2 percent from the March 2001 revised unemployment rate of 4.1 percent. The number of individuals unemployed in April (1,720) increased 3 percent from March, creating the slight increase in the unemployment rate over the month. April falls between the busy winter season, when the holidays and winter recreation activities add jobs in the area's economy, and the busy spring season, when farming, construction, and tourism add jobs in the area's economy. Therefore, a slight decrease in employment and an increase in the unemployment rate are normal this time of year.

More substantially different is the change from one year ago, when the unemployment rate was 5.4 percent. A fairly mild winter, the opening of two major retail outlets, and April's mild weather conditions contributed to an improved employment pattern over last year. From April 2000, the number of individuals in the labor force increased 4.8 percent (1,840) while the number of individuals employed increased 6 percent (2,190), driving the unemployment rate down from 5.4 percent to 4.2 percent.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs fell by 30 from March 2001 to April 2001. Jobs in the *Goods-Producing Industries* (Construction and Manufacturing) increased by 180 in April, while jobs in the *Service-Producing Industries* (Transportation, Communications & Utilities; Trade; Finance, Insurance & Real Estate; Services; and Government) fell by 210.

Goods-Producing Industries

The 180-job increase in *Construction* and *Manufacturing* occurred because mild weather allowed construction activity to resume after slowing down for the winter months. *Construction* jobs increased by 100 over the month, and increases occurred in all three categories—*General Building Contractors*, *Heavy Construction*, and *Special Trade Contractors*. Increased

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

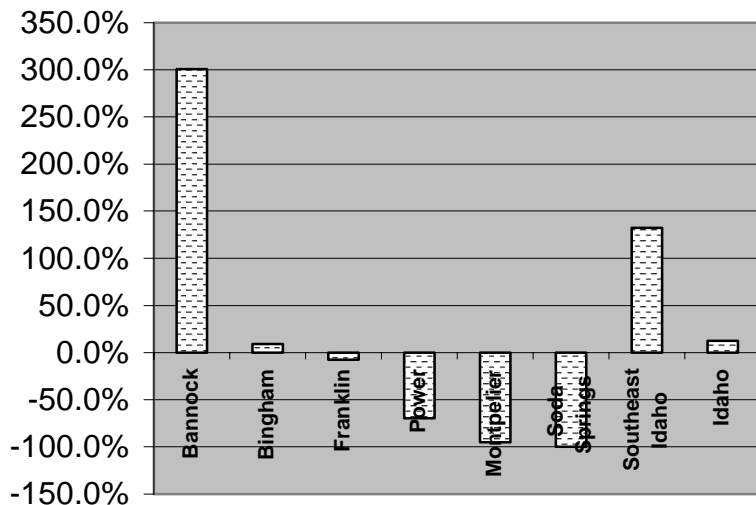
	Apr 2001*	Mar 2001	Apr 2000	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,510	40,460	38,670	0.1	4.8
Unemployment	1,720	1,670	2,070	3.0	-16.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2%	4.1%	5.4%		
Total Employment	38,790	38,790	36,600	0.0	6.0
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,700	41,020	38,830	-0.8	4.8
Unemployment	1,680	1,870	2,030	-10.2	-17.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1%	4.6%	5.2%		
Total Employment	39,020	39,150	36,800	-0.3	6.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	33,480	33,510	33,020	-0.1	1.4
Goods-Producing Industries	4,660	4,480	4,500	4.0	3.6
Mining & Construction	1,590	1,490	1,650	6.7	-3.6
Manufacturing	3,070	2,990	2,850	2.7	7.7
Service-Producing Industries	28,820	29,030	28,520	-0.7	1.1
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,770	1,760	1,830	0.6	-3.3
Wholesale Trade	1,380	1,390	1,450	-0.7	-4.8
Retail Trade	7,060	7,060	6,900	0.0	2.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,450	1,440	1,460	0.7	-0.7
Services	8,000	8,130	7,860	-1.6	1.8
Government Administration	3,460	3,410	3,440	1.5	0.6
Government Education	5,700	5,840	5,580	-2.4	2.2

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Southeast Idaho Construction Graph 1

Change in Construction permit value Jan & Feb 2000 - 2001



construction activity also affected jobs in *Manufacturing*, which increased by 80 over the month. Most *Manufacturing* increases occurred in *Stone, Clay, Glass, and Concrete Products* and *Fabricated Metal Products*.

From April 2000, the *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 160 jobs. That job growth occurred in *Manufacturing*, but may fall behind later in the year as American Microsystems, Inc. and Astaris reduce their workforces. *Construction* lost 60 jobs from last April. Since construction permits for the first two months of 2001 were significantly higher than in the first two months of 2000 (see Construction Graph 1 on page 17), those losses may actually be the result of where the jobs are reported rather than fewer jobs.

Service-Producing Industries

The *Service-Producing Industries* had a net job loss of 210 between March and April 2001, primarily in *Government Education* (140) and *Services* (130). Most of the declines in *Government Education* occurred in student employment at Idaho State University. The decline in *Services* was mainly in *Amusement and Recreation*, and *Business Services*. Since most winter recreation jobs ceased in April and summer recreation jobs had not started, *Amusement and Recreation* lost more than 40 jobs. The *Business Services* sector, particularly staffing and telemarketing services, lost another 40 plus jobs.

From April 2000, the *Service-Producing Industries* gained 300 jobs. Most of the job growth occurred in *Retail Trade* (160), *Services* (140), and *Government Education* (120). Over the year, *Retail Trade* jobs grew because of the opening of two new super stores in the area. Despite increased jobs in retail, a trend among some retailers toward working staff more hours, thereby employing fewer workers, may be holding retail job numbers down slightly. Job growth in *Services* has been primarily in *Hotels, Business Services, Engineering, Research, & Management Services*, and *Other Services*. Because of increased utilization of temporary workers through private staffing agencies, some jobs that would be counted in other industries have been counted in *Business Services*.

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Please note: Information contained in Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.

Bannock County

- The Pocatello Women's Correctional Center is expanding and will add approximately 60 positions. By mid-summer, the facility will increase its substance abuse treatment center from 11 to 62 beds. Jobs created by the expansion will pay between \$7.00 and \$24.00 per hour.
- American Microsystems, Inc. (AMI) reduced its Pocatello workforce by around 220 jobs in May. The reductions occurred because the economy in general, and the semiconductor industry in particular, has slowed. Reductions occurred in all divisions and occupations. The jobs that were cut pay between \$8.00

and \$35.00 per hour. AMI continues to be one of Pocatello's largest employers and still plans to build a new facility in Pocatello to house the engineering and business departments.

- Enhancements have been made to the Lava Hot Springs pool at a cost of \$460,000. The enhancements include two new slides, a plunge pool for the slides, and a new stairway to the existing Olympic-size pool's diving platforms. The Lava Hot Springs Foundation, a state-funded organization, operates the swimming facility and hot pools in Lava.
- Harrison Jewelers, one of Old Town Pocatello's oldest businesses, closed in May. The store was closed because its owner/operator will pursue a new business opportunity.

Caribou County

- Astaris announced plans to reduce its Dry Valley Mine workforce in Soda Springs by nine people. The reduction, from 58 to 49 employees, is the result of reducing the number of furnaces in operation at the Pocatello Astaris facility.

Franklin County

- Naylor Insurance moved into its new facility at 98 E 800 N, Suite 4. The new location provides more space for conducting business and increased customer parking.
- A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Larsen-Sant Public Library in Preston was held in May. The facility will be approximately 8,700 square feet and will cost \$900,000.

Oneida County

- Nana's Attic opened in April in Malad's Uptown Mall. The business specializes in ceramic, porcelain, and bisque green ware, and finished items. They also carry a line of special occasion gift items.

Power County

- Because of mild weather conditions last winter, construction on the new American Falls High School is ahead of schedule. Masonry crews are currently working on the auditorium, and framing, electrical systems, and fire systems are being completed inside the building. The school is scheduled to open in 2002.
- A Minnesota company, Handi-Plus Inc., has shown an interest in building a natural gas power generating plant on Highway 37 between American Falls and Rockland. A public hearing is scheduled in June.

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